the WATER Connection

August 1999

ON THE WATER FRONT

I hope you've tried our new blended water. We're getting samples to as many of our customers as we can so they can taste this water supply of the future. We're also delivering the blend to the first of four neighborhoods where customers are using it exclusively for 90 days. The neighbors on Alandale Place, who have used the water for about two months, have given us a "thumbs up". Some of them have said it tastes better than the groundwater they were receiving, and, as we expected, there have been no problems with plumbing or appliances.

This water is created by placing Colorado River water on the ground, letting it soak through the earth and then blending it with groundwater. We then adjust the pH which, along with the blending, prevents any of the problems that developed with unblended CAP water delivered in the early 1990's. We think this blend is a great way to use our Colorado River water to supplement our diminishing groundwater supply – but we want you to try it and tell us what you think.

If you like this water, we want to serve it to you. By letting the two types of water to blend naturally underground in Avra Valley and delivering it from there, we can manage it and control the water quality. We can consistently serve water just as good or better than this blended water we are asking you to sample.

We're all paying for Colorado River water, but not using it, while our water table continues to drop. We do not have enough groundwater to support the current population of Tucson even if no one else ever moves here. To keep the water table from dropping we'd have to maintain the

same population we had here in 1940.

So, give the new water a try and let us know if you agree that it makes sense to us it to sustain our desert city.

David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water

— Tell Us What You Think About The New Blended Water

Free Comment Cards Give Customers A Voice On Future Plans

Tucson Water customers can easily give us feedback on our new blended water after they try it by completing and mailing a comment card. These cards are postage free and addressed to Tucson Water. We'd like to know what you think about this new water we've developed. It's a blend of recharged Colorado River water and groundwater that we are serving to selected neighborhoods in the city. Blending allows us to use our Colorado River water in a way that's acceptable to our customers.

When we begin to deliver this water to customers in 2001, we can turn off the groundwater wells in central Tucson that are causing our water table to drop – up to 200 feet in some places. This will help stop subsidence and, combined with our reclaimed water system and water conservation, will give us enough water to continue to serve the people who live here today.

So, pick up a comment card at any 5-gallon blended water display. We'll also be handing cards out with our free sports bottle water samples of the blend.

– Ambassador Neighborhoods Program

Blended Water Quality for June 1999

The blended water being delivered to 10 homes in the Alandale neighborhood was of this quality on average during June.

Blended Water Quality	Range	Average	Range for Groundwater
Mineral Content (ppm)	395-416	405	150-617
Chloramines (ppm)	1.03-1.34	1.2	0.8-1.2 (chlorine)
Temperature (deg F)	83-90	87	72-90
pH (units)	8.4-8.5	8.4	7.1-8.5

Free Water$mart Info

Tucson Water is continuing its popular series of FREE workshops to help you design, install, operate and maintain a water-thrifty drip irrigation system for your landscape or garden. Workshops are also offered on how to use your irrigation timer and how to select plants for your landscape.

August 28, 1999

2:30 pm-4:30 pm Irrigation Timer Use
Kirk-Bear Canyon Library

September 18, 1999
9:00 am-11:00 am Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
11:30 am-1:30 pm Irrigation Timer Use
2:30 pm-4:30 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation
Wilmot Library

October 2, 1999
8:30 am-10:30 am Mini-Oasis Plant Selection and Design
11:00 am-1:00 pm Drip Irrigation Design and Installation
2:00 pm-4:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

2:00 pm-4:00 pm Irrigation Timer Use

Tohono Chul Park
7366 N. Paseo Del Norte, Tucson

Seating is limited at workshops and reservations are required. Reserve early to ensure a seat. Contact Tucson Water at 791-4331 for reservations.

The Saturday workshops are a joint program of the Pima County Cooperative Extension and Tucson Water.

Coliform Bacteria Testing Results

May 1999

Click this box to see the graphic representation of the May 1999 Groundwater Quality Report. (When you are finished there, you will need to use your browser's BACK button to return to this page)

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.

Why should bacteria count matter to me?

Millions of people around the world suffer from waterborne diseases caused by bacteria. This is rare in the United States, where most water utilities disinfect the water and monitor and test for microorganisms. Tucson Water adds a sufficient level of chlorine to keep the groundwater we use safe for drinking, cooking and bathing.

What's a coliform, anyway?

Coliforms are bacteria which are not harmful themselves but may indicate the presence of other, potentially harmful bacteria.

Why should the chlorine level in my water matter to me?

Chlorine kills bacteria and germs that can grow in drinking water and prevents waterborne disease. Chlorine is the most widely used water disinfectant in North America. Tucson Water continually tests water at more than 240 locations to make sure chlorine levels stay within the target range.

Groundwater Quality Report

May 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium	Average	52	40	53	37	34	31	32	41	48	41	40
(ppm)	*Range*	*33-82*	*36-43*	*28-93*	*27-68*	*24-43*	*24-42*	*21-42*	*35-46*	*40-89*	*40-42*	*21-93*
Mineral Content	Average	380	265	355	238	224	233	229	323	263	214	267
(ppm)	*Range*	*175-534*	*243-293*	*176-617*	*184-489*	*150-275*	*196-291*	*158-303*	*253-479*	*207-404*	*210-219*	*150-617*
Hardness	Average	176	119	159	102	98	109	106	158	97	75	118
(ppm)	*Range*	*62-237*	*103-138*	*58-316*	*67-1238*	*68-137*	*89-131*	*61-147*	*97-288*	*69-186*	*74-77*	*58-316*
pH	Average	7.9	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	8.0	7.9
(units)	*Range*	*7.4-8.5*	*7.5-8.2*	*7.1-8.4*	*7.5-8.2*	*7.4-8.2*	*7.2-8.3*	*7.2-8.3*	*7.2-8.1*	*7.4-8.3*	*7.7-8.3*	*7.1-8.5*
Temperature	Average	78	81	81	83	81	80	80	82	85	85	82
(deg F)	*Range*	*76-82*	*77-86*	*75-88*	*76-88*	*74-88*	*76-84*	*72-86*	*76-86*	*77-90*	*78-88*	*72-90*

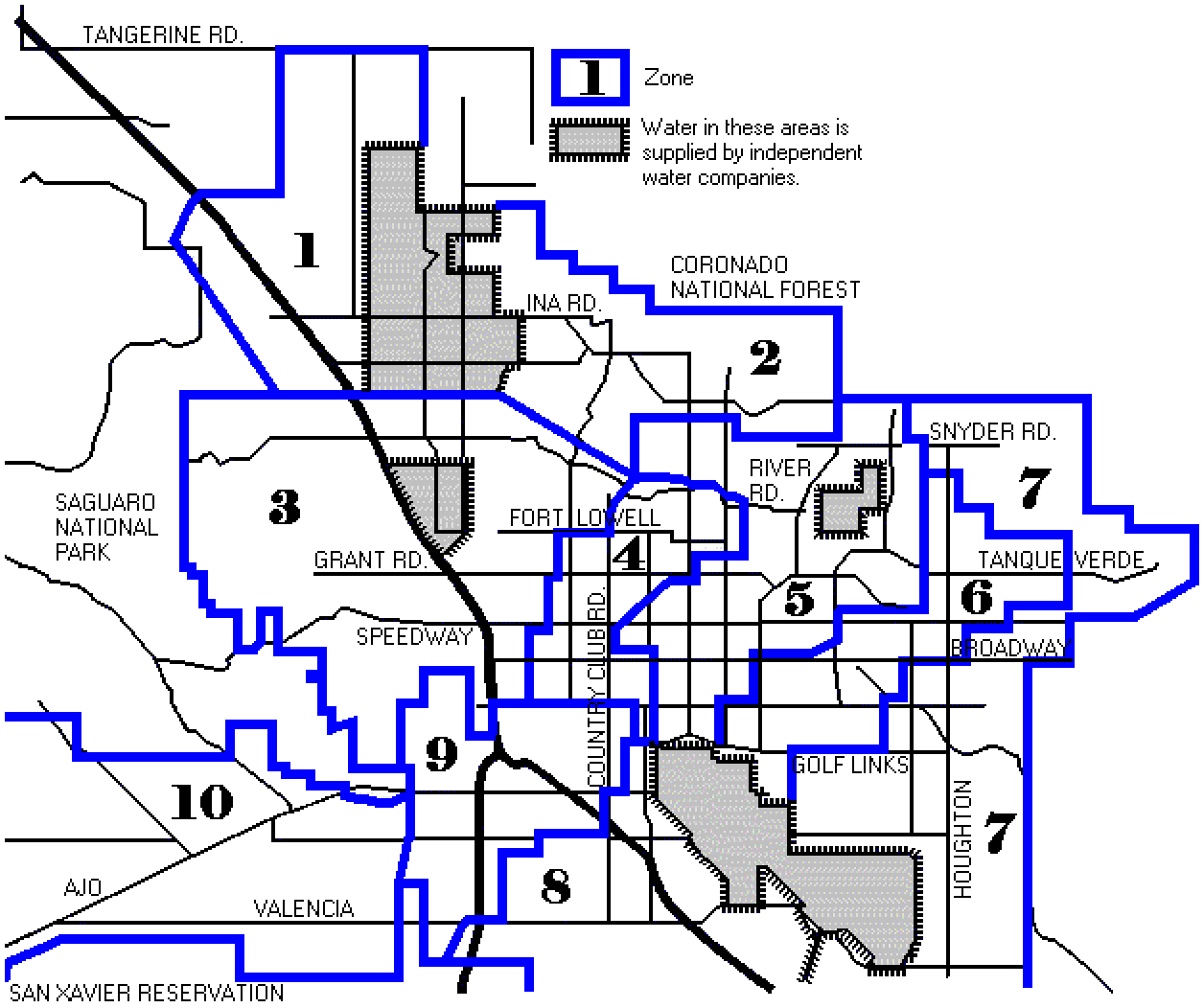
What does all this mean to me?

Sodium. The American Heart Association recommended standard for daily sodium intake is 3,000 milligrams. In general, the amount of sodium ingested from drinking water is a small part of a person's overall dietary intake. People on severely restricted sodium diets may want to consult their health care provider about sodium levels in their water.

Mineral content measures the amount of total dissolved solids, or **TDS**, in the water. Mineral content can often affect the taste of the water. For example, many people can detect a salty taste when TDS is above 500 parts per million. The federal government has recommended an aesthetic standard of 500 ppm or less for mineral content in drinking water.

Hardness measures the ease with which soap can be lathered. The softer water is, the more easily it produces a soap lather. Water hardness also determines the degree of water spotting on dishes, plumbing fixtures and bath areas. In addition, most home water conditioners are set based on the hardness of the water entering the home. For the most part, Tucson's groundwater is considered moderately hard.

pH. Swimming pool chemistry, some fish aquariums and ponds, and certain water conditioner systems require you to control the pH of the water. pH is a measurement of acidity. Waters with a pH below 7.0 are considered acidic. The federal secondary, or aesthetic, standard for pH is 6.5 to 8.5.



The information shown on this map was collected at 245 sampling points for sodium, mineral content, hardness, pH and temperature.

TUCSON WATER	***The Water Connection*** **is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to:** **Customer Information P.O. Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210**	**City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639** **Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.**